

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3-5 and 7-28 will be pending in this application. Claims 10-17 have been allowed. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 7-9 and 18-28 are presently being examined on the merits.

OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

On page 2 of the Office action dated March 3, 2009, the Office has rejected claims 3-5, 7-9 and 18-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,964,943 (Andersen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,250,127 (Polese et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections for the reasons given below and in the response filed on November 6, 2008, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 10-17 are allowed.

With respect to claims 19-28, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, since they depend from (and thus further limit) allowable claim 10.

With respect to claim 5, Applicant notes that this claim was previously considered to be allowable, and was so indicated in the Office action dated August 11, 2008. The record does not clearly indicate why this claim went from being allowable in August of 2008 to being obvious in March of 2009, over the same references applied by the Office in the April 11, 2008 Office action (albeit to claims other than claim 5).

Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable for the reasons given in the response filed on November 6, 2008, but that at minimum, claims 19-28 and claim 5 should also have been indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this application is believed to be in the condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues regarding this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned, so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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